June 26th 2009 Issue 1



The Summer Scene

A Weekly Update for Workforce Resource's Summer Work, Education and Training Program

Serving Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties

Manufacturing Academies Start the Summer with Success

Three separate Manufacturing Academies have been running simultaneously for the past two weeks, sponsored through Workforce Resource. This past Friday marked the graduation of the youth from the program. Parents had the opportunity to attend the ceremony and watch youth present final projects.

Barron County youth at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) in Rice Lake gained experience in welding and woodworking. As a final project the youth created sturdy dog houses that will be donated to the Barron County Humane Society.

Also through WITC, the youth from Pierce, St. Croix and Polk Counties at the New Richmond Academy gained experience in welding as well as bio-fuels. Youth had the chance to create their own bio-fuel from sunflower seeds.

Those that completed the program through WITC received a certificate granting 2 credits towards any WITC manufacturing related program.

At Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) in Eau Claire, youth from Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, and Pepin Counties were trained in several manufacturing areas including solar-power, nanoscience, and workplace safety. These youth received an OSHA 10 safety certificate (recognizing 10 hours of OSHA training).

The program has received positive remarks from youth as well as the instructors.

According to instructor Mike
Holtorf at WITC in Barron, a
great side effect of the project
was the leadership displayed
when students who had exposure
to welding stepped in and helped
those who had never worked
with a wire feed operation before. It was an admirable display
of teamwork. Mr. Holtorf also
noted, "I have never worked
with such well-mannered and
well-behaved young people."

Much of the success of the program can be attributed to local funding sources. Tech Prep funds helped pay for WITC Academies. Other funding also came from Great Lakes Higher Education Foundation, the Polaris Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, Union Pacific Rail Road, and The Dunn Energy Co-on

Youth Numbers at Work

302 youth enrolled in summer work education and training through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

29 graduates from CVTC's Manufacturing Academy including youth from Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, and Pepin Counties.

24 total graduates from WITC's Manufacturing Academy located in New Richmond and Rice Lake with youth from Barron, Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce Counties.

10 Manufacturing Academy youth were funded through local sources.





Upcoming Events

- July 6 Health Academy Chippewa Health Academy kicks off at the Red Cross
- July 8 Health Academy Graduation WITC New Richmond and Rice Lake CNAs receive final certificates
- July 15 Green Guest Speaker Chippewa is hosting a guest speaker on "green" topics for their JET program
- July 19 Health Academy Eau Claire Health Academy begins
- July 22 Community Service Clark youth at the Greenwood County Park
- August 5 and 6 Community Service Clark youth at Sportsman Lake in Owen
- August 12 Community Service Clark youth at Black River County Park

